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## Richard E. Weaver Northampton County Emergency Service Personnel of the Year

By Anne Weaver

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP - As a life member of Washington Township Volunteer Fire Company Richard served as a volunteer fire fighter from 1971 to present which amounts to over 50 years. As a member, Richard has served our community as assistant chief from 1979 to 1984. Richard has served as fire chief from 1984 until 2003 totaling 19 years. He served as the Fire Marshall through the years as fire chief until just a few weeks ago. He has sacrificed countless hours as chief and committee member over the course of those 50 years, overseeing along with others, the construction of our station house and the upgrade of our social hall. Richard was an essential part of the acquisition of each current apparatus.

Richard has also held various executive positions on WTVFC Fireman's Relief since its inception helping us to procure PPE and other firefighting equipment through the fire man's relief funds.

Richard was also instrumental in starting water rescue training in Northampton County after a tragic drowning at Lake Minsi. He was a charter member at Blue Valley Water Rescue and also served at Portland Water Rescue during its years of service.

Among these years of volunteering with WTVFC in the above capacities Richard has also served as instructor since 1997 and director of Northampton County Fire School during which he has maintained his certifications and accreditations as a

Pennsylvania State Fire Academy Instructor through the Fire Academy. He has overseen and challenged and guided more than 3,000 volunteer fire fighters to fulfill their aspirations of becoming a fire fighter in some capacity or another. It is unknown exactly how many students he's trained over the years as instructor at NFS but many will vouch for the generations of emergency service personnel including his own family.



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